



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB1945

Introduced 2/23/2007, by Rep. Carolyn H. Krause

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

220 ILCS 5/16-131 new

Amends the Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997 in the Public Utilities Act. Provides that the Illinois Commerce Commission shall implement and maintain a consumer education program for energy conservation to provide residential and small commercial retail customers with information to help them understand their options concerning energy conservation. Provides for a working group for implementation of provisions. Provides that by October 1, 2007, educational materials for small commercial customers and residential customers, the working group shall develop a package of printed educational materials and shall submit such package to the Commission for approval, along with recommendations for implementing the program. Provides that the costs of printing educational materials approved by the Commission pursuant to the provisions shall be payable solely from funding appropriated each year to the Commission from the General Revenue Fund for the expenses of the Commission associated with the program. Provides that the Commission shall study the effectiveness of the consumer education program for energy conservation. Effective immediately.

LRB095 09707 MJR 29911 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by adding  
5 Section 16-131 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/16-131 new)

7 Sec. 16-131. Commission consumer education program for  
8 energy conservation.

9 (a) The Commission shall implement and maintain a consumer  
10 education program for energy conservation to provide  
11 residential and small commercial retail customers with  
12 information to help them understand their options concerning  
13 energy conservation.

14 (b) The Commission shall form a working group following the  
15 enactment of this amendatory Act of the 95th General Assembly.  
16 This group shall consist of 5 representatives of the  
17 investor-owned electric utilities in this State, 2 of which  
18 shall be appointed by electric utilities serving over 1,000,000  
19 retail customers in this State; 2 representatives of  
20 alternative retail electric suppliers; 3 representatives of  
21 organizations representing the interests of residential and  
22 small commercial retail customers; and the Commission.

23 (c) By October 1, 2007, educational materials for small

1 commercial customers and residential customers, the working  
2 group appointed pursuant to this Section shall develop a  
3 package of printed educational materials which meet the  
4 requirements of subsection (d) and shall submit such package to  
5 the Commission for approval, along with recommendations for  
6 implementing this consumer education program for energy  
7 conservation. Such materials shall consider the needs of  
8 different types of consumers in this State, such as elderly,  
9 low-income, multilingual, minority, rural and disabled  
10 customers. The working group shall issue recommendations to the  
11 Commission on how such education program can be implemented  
12 through a variety of communication methods, including  
13 specifically mass media, distribution of printed material,  
14 public service announcements, and posting on the Internet.

15 (d) At a minimum, the materials constituting the consumer  
16 education program submitted to the Commission by the working  
17 group shall include concise explanations or descriptions of the  
18 following:

19 (1) information about how customers may conserve  
20 energy and

21 (2) additional information available from the  
22 Commission upon request.

23 (e) Within 45 days following the submission required of the  
24 working group by subsection (d) of this Section, the Commission  
25 shall approve or disapprove the educational materials and  
26 recommendations for program implementation. The Commission

1 shall be deemed to have approved the educational program  
2 materials and recommendations unless the Commission  
3 disapproves of any such material or recommendation within 45  
4 days following the date of receipt.

5 (f) Once approved by the Commission, materials comprising  
6 the consumer education program contemplated by this Section  
7 shall be distributed as follows:

8 (1) Electric utilities shall mail printed educational  
9 materials specified by the working group and approved by  
10 the Commission (a) to all residential and small commercial  
11 retail customers within a reasonable period prior to the  
12 date that such customers become eligible to purchase power  
13 from alternative retail electric suppliers, such  
14 "reasonable period" to be determined by the Commission; and  
15 (b) once the applicable customer class becomes eligible to  
16 receive delivery services, to all new residential and small  
17 commercial retail customers at the time that such customers  
18 begin taking services from the electric utility.

19 (2) Both electric utilities and alternative retail  
20 electric suppliers shall provide such materials at no  
21 charge to residential and small commercial retail  
22 customers upon request.

23 (g) The costs of printing educational materials approved by  
24 the Commission pursuant to this Section shall be payable solely  
25 from funding as provided in this subsection (g). Each year the  
26 General Assembly shall appropriate money to the Commission from

1 the General Revenue Fund for the expenses of the Commission  
2 associated with this Section. The cost of the consumer  
3 education program for energy conservation contemplated by this  
4 Section shall not exceed the amount of such appropriation. In  
5 no event shall any electric utility, alternative retail  
6 electric supplier or customer be liable for the costs of  
7 printing consumer education program material in accordance  
8 with this Section. The obligations associated with this  
9 consumer education program shall not exceed the amounts  
10 appropriated for this program pursuant to this Section.

11 (i) The Commission shall study the effectiveness of the  
12 consumer education program for energy conservation. Such study  
13 shall include a notice and an opportunity for participation and  
14 comment by all interested and potentially affected parties.  
15 Such study shall be completed by January 31st of each year and  
16 a summary thereof, together with any legislative  
17 recommendations, shall be included in the Commission's Annual  
18 Report due in accordance with Section 4-304 of this Act.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
20 becoming law.